

3/22/72

Senator Charles Mathias
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Att'n Sid Hurlburt

Dear Mac,

Although you have asked to be kept fully informed through Sid, I have not done this for several reasons, one not to bother your office with needless work, another your friendship with Burke Marshall and still another the hair-raising character of some of it.

To say that some of this mess is improper is to understate too much. To say that some of it is the raw material of a scoundrel novel is not to exaggerate.

I have no reason to believe that Marshall, personally, intends to do anything bad. I have every reason to hold the view I did, that he has yet to do a single good and proper thing since he assumed the function that is known. I believe that the fact is he has no idea what he is into, has to turn to others for advice, and does what they recommend.

And now I have reason to hold a more sinister view, even though I cannot believe it. But the information that has reached me is that wrong if it is correct.

When I first mentioned my apprehension to you, you understood its potential immediately and offered to talk to Teddy. I urged against it on the theory that he must take one of two positions and hold to it firmly and that, having said he is detached from this painful matter, he must in public as in private maintain that position. You spoke to Marshall and he told you he would permit nobody to see any of that material. He then did the opposite, for no need or reason. He plans to go further and in a way that will ruin Teddy if it does no worse. In fact, the government has been virtually begging me to make formal application to use a formula they have cooked up. I believe the intent is not the obvious but to use when they do the same thing with another or others. I have refused and made my reasons specific. Meanwhile, they violate regulations and then improvise new ones when I catch them.

And there is more. When I think about the overall on this with what is not in any way connected with it, unknown developments in the Ray case, I get what Jean Dixon would call very bad vibrations.

So, I'm not writing to ask you to do anything further. However, I feel I do need some advice on what to do and what not to do, from someone who knows his way around and whose political judgment I trust. If you can find the time for you and Sid and me to have an uninterrupted discussion on this and for me to tell you a few of the things I haven't, I'll come in for just that. I have to be in Washington on the fifth, but I hope you can find time before then.

Best regards

Harold Weisberg